

PROPOSED DETERMINATION UNDER THE PLENARY POWERS  
OF THE INTERPRETATION OF THE NOMINAL SPECIES  
"RHYNCHONELLA SUBCONCINNA" DAVIDSON, 1852 (PHYLUM  
BRACHIOPODA, CLASS ARTICULATA)

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The purpose of the present application is to ask the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature to give directions under its Plenary Powers that the nominal species *Rhynchonella subconcinna* Davidson, 1852 (Phylum Brachiopoda) be interpreted by reference to the neotype designated therefor by the present applicant in 1956 (Ager (D.V.), 1956 : 10).

2. The nominal species *Rhynchonella subconcinna* Davidson, 1852 (: 90, pl. xvii, fig. 17) was described from a single specimen (which is therefore the holotype) from the Marlstone Rock-bed (*spinatum* Zone) in the Lower Jurassic of Ilminster, Somerset. The holotype, which was said to be from the collection of Charles Moore, is not preserved in the Davidson collection at the British Museum (Natural History) or in the Moore collection, now at the City Museum, Bristol. It has not been observed in any of the major British collections of Lower Jurassic brachiopods. It is therefore presumed lost.

3. There appears to be no doubt that the nominal species *Rhynchonella fodinalis* Tate, 1876 (: 424, pl. xv, figs. 16, 16a) is a synonym of Davidson's species. The type-specimens of the former are preserved in the Geological Survey Museum (Registration Numbers 28628—9) and differ in no appreciable manner from the neotype designated by the present author.

4. The two names *R. subconcinna* and *R. fodinalis* have been used extensively in literature, though the synonymy was suspected at an early date by Davidson (1878 : 207). This confusion has resulted mainly from the fact that the two names were originally applied to forms at opposite ends of the English Lower Jurassic outcrop, *R. subconcinna* from Somerset and *R. fodinalis* from Yorkshire. The situation has been further aggravated by the action of Buckman, (1918 : 43, 59) in referring *R. fodinalis* to the genus *Quadratrhyynchia* Buckman,

1914, and *R. subconcinna* provisionally to the genus *Furcirhynchia* Buckman, 1914. The present author (Ager, 1956 : 10) regards the two forms as synonymous and as referable to the genus *Tetrarhynchia* Buckman, 1917.

5. *R. subconcinna* is a somewhat generalised form, lacking in distinctive characters, and the name has been carelessly applied by various authors to forms of various ages having no connection with the original.

6. Though the synonymy referred to in paragraph 4 is purely subjective, it is considered desirable that the name having priority should be firmly established. The synonymy was in fact recognised by J. F. Walker on the label of the specimen selected as neotype (see paragraph 8 below).

7. The specimen designated as neotype by the present author in 1956 agrees with what is known of the lost holotype. It comes from the Marlstone Rock-bed at South Petherton in Somerset, immediately adjacent to the type locality of Ilminster. It closely resembles Davidson's original figures and some poorly-preserved specimens labelled with the same name in the Charles Moore collection at Bristol (mentioned above). The neotype was described and figured by the present author (Ager, D. V., 1956 ; 10—12, pl. i, figs. 5 a—c). It is preserved in the British Museum (Natural History) which has proper facilities for preserving type specimens and which gives research workers access to its collections. The following are attached to the specimen :—

(1) Green spot.

(2) Yellow number-label B 33239, the official registration number of the specimen.

(3) White label : "S.Pth." (=South Petherton, the locality at which the specimen was found).

8. Accompanying the specimen are the following labels :—

(1) Rhyn. sub-concinna M. Lias South Petherton Ilminster.

(2) Written on the pill box containing the specimen : B 33239 Rhynchonella subconcinna Dav. R. Fodinalis Tate Mid Lias South Petherton Ilminster.

(3) NEOTYPE. *Tetrarhynchia subconcinna* (Dav.) B 33239. Figd. Ager, D. V. Mon. Pal. Soc. 1956 vol. 110 pl. I figs. 5 a—c.

9. The purpose of designating a neotype in this instance was to stabilise the usage of the binomen *Tetrarhynchia subconcinna* (Davidson). The specific name in question is the oldest available name and has enjoyed uninterrupted usage since its first publication.

10. The International Commission is therefore requested to use its Plenary Powers :—

- (1) to give directions that the nominal species *Rhynchonella subconcinna* Davidson, 1852, be interpreted by reference to the specimen designated and figured as the neotype of that species by the present applicant in 1956 ( : pl. 1, figs. 5a—c).
- (2) to place the under-mentioned specific name on the *Official List of Specific Names in Zoology*: *subconcinna* Davidson, 1852, as published in the combination *Rhynchonella subconcinna*, interpreted as specified in (1) above.

#### References :

- Ager, D. V., 1956, " A monograph of the British Liassic Rhynchonellidae " pt. i, *Palaeont. Soc.* 110
- Buckman, S. S., 1918, " The Brachiopoda of the Namyau Beds, Northern Shan States, Burma " *Palaeont. indica* (n.s.), 3 (No. 2) (1917)
- Davidson, T., 1852, " A monograph of the British fossil Brachiopoda " vol. 1, pt. iii, *Palaeont. Soc.*
- Davidson, T., 1878, *Ibid* vol. 4, pt. ii
- Tate, R., 1876, " Class Palliobranchiata " in Tate & Blake, *The Yorkshire Lias* London